AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for a system having distributed collaborating components, comprising:

restricting direct interaction between distributed collaborating components by introducing an application-independent interface between distributed collaborating components; and

invoking a service from the application-independent interface in order to enable interaction between distributed collaborating components, wherein invoking a service from the application-independent interface comprises sending a usage specification to the application-independent interface.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, wherein the application-independent interface has a capability to interpret the usage specification at runtime.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method for a system having distributed collaborating components, comprising:

restricting direct interaction between distributed collaborating components by introducing an application-independent interface between distributed collaborating components; and

invoking a service from the application-independent interface in order to enable interaction between distributed collaborating components The method of claim 1, wherein invoking a service from the application-independent interface comprises sending a logic execution specification to the application-independent interface.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the application-independent interface has a capability to interpret the logic execution specification at runtime.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method for a distributed system having a client and a server, comprising:

interposing a service layer between the client and the server, the service layer having a capability to interpret a specification from the client at runtime in order to enable interaction between the client and the server, wherein the specification is one selected from the group consisting of a usage specification and a logic execution specification; and

routing correspondence between the client and server through the service layer.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim **6**, wherein the usage specification comprises an attribute of an object on the server.

8.   (Original) The method of claim **7**, further comprising:
        the service layer fetching data from the object based on the specification.

9.   (Original) The method of claim **8**, wherein fetching data from the object comprises storing data fetched from the server in a proxy for the object.

10.   (Original) The method of claim **7**, further comprising the service layer updating data in the object based on the specification.

11.   (Original) The method of claim **10**, wherein updating data in the object comprises receiving data from the client and using data received from the client to modify the attribute of the object.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim **6**, wherein the logic execution specification comprises logic for invoking a method of an object on the server.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim **12**, wherein interpreting the logic execution specification comprises invoking the method of the object.

14.   (Original) The method of claim **6**, wherein interposing the service layer between the client and the server comprises separating specification of usage of an object on the server from implementation of the client.

15.   (Original) The method of claim **14**, wherein interposing a service layer between the client and the server further comprises separating specification of logic for invoking a method of an object on a server from implementation of the client.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having recorded thereon instructions executable by a processor, the instructions for:

receiving a specification from a client component; and

interpreting the specification in order to enable interaction between the client component and a server component, wherein the specification is one selected from the group consisting of a usage specification and a logic execution specification.

17.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim **16**, wherein the usage specification comprises a usage of an object in the server component.

18.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim **17**, further comprising:

instructions for fetching data from the object based on the usage.

19.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim **17**, further comprising:

instructions for updating data in the object based on the usage.

20.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim **16**, wherein the logic execution specification comprises logic for invoking a method of an object on the server.

21.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim **20**, wherein interpreting the logic execution specification comprises invoking the method of the object.

22.   (Original) A distributed system, comprising:

a client component;

a server component having at least one object at runtime; and

a service layer between the client and the server component, the service layer having a capability to interpret a specification of usage of the object at runtime.

23.   (Original) The distributed system of claim **22**, wherein the service layer further has a capability of interpret a specification of logic executions in the server component at runtime.

24.   (Original) A distributed system, comprising:

a service means for providing application-independent services and for interpreting a usage specification and a logic execution specification;

a client component that sends the usage specification and a logic execution specification

to the service means; and

a server component that interacts with the service means in order to provide services to

the client component.

25. (Canceled)